

Congregation Beth Israel

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Rabbi Yonatan Cohen

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Women in Leadership Positions

- First synagogue to have a women president (1970 – 1971 term)

Women Speaking From the Amud

- Women may speak from the *amud*

Women's Ritual Participation

- Torah is passed to the women
- Women recite *birkhat hagamel*
- Prayer for *agunot* is said
- Congregants have the option to include mother's name during *misheberach*

Kaddish

- Women may say *kaddish*

Life Cycle Events

- Bat Mitzvah
- Shalom Bat
- Mothers are included in son's life cycle events

Holidays

- Sukkot: Women have their own *hoshanot* circuit that interlocks, but does not intersect with the men
 - Torah is held by a woman, and men are not on the *bimah* during that *hoshana*
- Purim: Women's *megillah* reading
- Simchat Torah: Women's *kriyah*

Mechitzah Structure

- Two symmetrical sides of the *shul* with a varied-height *mechitzah* running down the middle

Childcare Available During Services

- Yes